

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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FROM: Taipei

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 388, September 16, 1950

TELEGRAPH BRANCH

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Central: 6301
A/CDC/MR
September 16, 1950REVIEWED BY *L. C. ...* DATE *7/9/82*

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Responsive Department's comment certain points raised DEPTTEL 237, September 15, following observations ventured in hope of demonstrating Department's and Chinese Government positions much closer together than may have appeared.

1. To our knowledge, no responsible Chinese official and no significant faction public opinion would wish Seventh Fleet mission cancelled under present circumstances. Local reaction to President's remarks at press conference August 31 is ample confirmation.

2. Chinese hold above position despite fact that US action begun June 27 has so far contributed to no permanent strengthening Chinese military forces on Formosa, while at same time preventing any interference with concurrent and substantial build-up of Chinese Communist preparations for invasion (MYTEL 339, September 2, transmitting memorandum from Foreign Minister).

3. There is appreciation in Chinese official circles of US position on proposed Formosan investigation, coupled with hope US will appreciate delicacy of situation here which prospect of such investigation has brought about. While not expecting US actively overlook consideration of proposal Chinese Government hopeful we will not only avoid sponsoring it but overlook no suitable opportunity to allow project either to die or take innocuous form. Chinese Government instructions to its SC representative simply to abstain if proposal comes to vote is evidence of reasonable official attitude.

4. US course hoped for by Chinese Government scarcely of nature to provide pretext Chinese Communist aggression. In any case, well established Communist pattern of action based upon more substantial motivation and uses tangible or many factured pretexts almost solely for propaganda.

5. Whatever

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-2-#388, September 16, 4 p.m., from Taipei

5. Whatever precise US position with reference to support Nationalist Government; success of Seventh Fleet mission is dependent to important degree on maintenance of technical effectiveness and morale of Chinese Armed Forces. NSC decided sometime ago Formosa could not be held without use of US ground forces. Since then, Communist air, sea, land preparations against Formosa have advanced substantially. Evidently, it is more important than ever that US should strive to avoid, and whenever possible prevent steps liable foster uncertainty, alarm, or dissention among Chinese forces, thereby inviting Chinese Communist attack and contributing to its possible success.

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JB:BBS

Note: DEPTTEL 237 drafted in FE:CA:T.L.Perkins.

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